

OPINION 1680

Buthus vittatus Say, 1821 (currently *Centruroides vittatus*), *Centrurus hentzi* Banks, 1904 (currently *Centruroides hentzi*) and *Buthus vittatus* Guérin Méneville, [1838] (currently *Bothriurus vittatus*) (Arachnida, Scorpionida): specific names conserved

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers:
 - (a) the adult male specimen in the U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. labelled '*Buthus vittatus* Say, 1821, NEOTYPE, Det. S.A. Stockwell' from 'Brackettville, Kinney Co., Texas, 21 May 1984 (S.A. Stockwell)' is hereby designated as the neotype of *Buthus vittatus* Say, 1821;
 - (b) the specific name *vittatus* Guérin Méneville, [1838], as published in the binomen *Buthus vittatus*, is hereby ruled to be not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Buthus vittatus* Say, 1821.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *vittatus* Say, 1821, as published in the binomen *Buthus vittatus* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *vittatus* Guérin Méneville, [1838], as published in the binomen *Buthus vittatus* (not invalid despite being a junior primary homonym of *Buthus vittatus* Say, 1821);
 - (c) *hentzi* Banks, 1904, as published in the binomen *Centrurus hentzi*.

History of Case 2637

The name *Buthus vittatus* Say, 1821 was based on a species of scorpion from Florida and Georgia, U.S.A. An application by Drs Scott A. Stockwell (*U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center, Natick, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) and Herbert W. Levi (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*), published in BZN 46: 233–235 (December 1989), sought to designate a neotype for *vittatus* in the sense in which the name has long been used for a species from Texas. It was also proposed that the name should be adopted from Wood (1863), the first author to describe the Texan species (although using the name in synonymy), so conserving *hentzi* Banks, 1904, the name currently in use for the Florida species. Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Subsequent to publication of the application it became apparent that adoption of *vittatus* from Wood (1863) had a number of disadvantages (set out in BZN 48: 55, March 1991), including a primary homonym, *Buthus vittatus* Guérin Méneville, [1838], which would be senior to *vittatus* 'Wood, 1863' and render the latter invalid. Drs Stockwell and Levi therefore revised their proposals, retaining the original authorship of *vittatus* Say, 1821 and using the plenary powers to designate a neotype in accord with current usage. This would remove the synonymy with *hentzi* Banks, 1904.

A comment from Dr Vincent D. Roth (*Portal, Arizona, U.S.A.*) in support of the conservation of the names *Centruroides vittatus* (Say, 1821) and *C. hentzi* (Banks, 1904) for the Texas and Florida species respectively was published in BZN 48: 56.

A comment from Dr W. David Sissom (*Elon College, North Carolina, U.S.A.*), published in BZN 48: 56, supported the conservation of the name *vittatus* Say, 1821. Dr Sissom also proposed the conservation of *vittatus* Guérin Méneville, [1838]; the name is a junior primary homonym of *vittatus* Say, 1821 but the species has been included in the genus *Bothriurus* Peters, 1861 since 1876 and its name has never been replaced. The name is currently in use for a species of scorpion from Chile.

The Commission was asked to vote separately on the revised application to conserve the name *vittatus* Say, 1821 by designating a neotype, thereby also conserving *hentzi* Banks, 1904 (proposals published in BZN 48: 55), and on the application to conserve *Buthus vittatus* Guérin Méneville, [1838] (proposals published in BZN 48: 56).

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1991 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 48: 55 and 56. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1992 the votes were as follows:

Proposals published in BZN 48: 55. Affirmative votes — 28: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — none.

Bouchet abstained.

Proposals published in BZN 48: 56. Affirmative votes — 21: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Schuster, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 8: Bouchet, Cogger, Holthuis, Minelli, Savage, Starobogatov, Štys and Thompson.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

hentzi, *Buthus*, Banks, 1904, *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, 56: 142.

vittatus, *Buthus*, Guérin Méneville, [1838], in Lesson, R.P. (Ed.), *Voyage autour du monde, exécuté par ordre du Roi, sur la corvette de sa Majesté, La Coquille, pendant les années 1822, 1823, 1824 et 1825. Par L.I. Duperrey*. Zoologie, vol. 2, part 2.1, p. 50.

vittatus, *Buthus*, Say, 1821, *Journal of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences*, 1: 61.